

**Chapter 2.X.X**  
**African Horse Sickness**

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**General Comment:**

- 1) Much of this Code Chapter relies on the implementation of a rigorous and effective surveillance program. Surveillance is not directly discussed in this document and a 'surveillance appendix' for AHS is not yet available. Surveillance will require continuous monitoring of *Culicoides* vectors, domestic equidae (horses, mules, donkeys), wild equidae (zebra, quagga, asses), and other possible unknown reservoirs. Such surveillance will be a challenge for any country. Having the details of proposed surveillance guidelines for AHS would be helpful to properly evaluate this chapter.
- 2) On vaccination:
  - a. Vaccination is mentioned throughout the document suggesting that it is 100% efficacious, however, the multivalent strain used in South Africa failed to protect some of the horses in 2005. Furthermore, since there are so many serotypes in the South Africa vaccine, vaccination must be administered multiple times to ensure good immunity against all serotypes.
- 3) This Code chapter is a complete revision of the existing Code Chapter on African Horse Sickness. Given the significant changes to this chapter and the need to have information on surveillance for the disease well defined, the United States recommends postponing the adoption of this chapter, and further recommends that a technical team (ad hoc group) of international experts be convened to review and address the key issues of the Code chapter, namely, surveillance, vaccination, and the concepts of "free" and "seasonally free" zones.